

Message Text

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14

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /059 W

----- 128591

P R 040736Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1609

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

OPNAV WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

DOD/ISA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4879

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPT. FOR PM/ISO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: JOINT U.S./AUSTRALIAN MILITARY EXERCISES:

KANGAROO I

REF: A) ACNB CANBERRA 100433Z APRIL 73 TO USDAO CANBERRA

(NOTAL)

B) COM 7TH FLT 030228Z APRIL 73 TO USDAO CANBERRA

(NOTAL)

C) CANBERRA 1252 MARCH 2, 1973

D) CANBERRA 4826

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DARCY MCGUARR, PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO DEFMIN LANCE BARNARD, HAS ASKED FOR USG REACTION
TO POSSIBLE PUBLIC ALLUSION TO EXERCISE KANGAROO I BY MINISTER
BARNARD. BARNARD WOULD DESCRIBE THIS EXERCISE WITHOUT
MENTIONING NAME KANGAROO I IN COURSE OF INTRODUCTORY
REMRKS HE PLANS TO MAKE FOR AMBASSADOR GREEN AT FORTH-
COMING SPEECH IN BRISBANE ON SEPT 6. MCGUARR'S CON-
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CERN IS THAT USG MAY NOT WANT TO FEEL COMMITTED

TO THIS EXERCISE SO FAR IN ADVANCE OF ITS PROPOSED OCCURRENCE IN MAY/JUNE 1974 TIMEFRAME. EMBASSY BELIEVES MENTION OF JOINT EXERCISES IN GENERAL WAY CAN MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING U.S./AUSTRALIAN MILITARY COOPERATION. END SUMMARY. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE KANGAROO I, HOWEVER, IS A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISE, EMBASSY REQUESTS CONFIRMATION THAT PUBLIC DESCRIPTION OF THIS EXERCISE IS ACCEPTABLE TO USG. RESPONSE SHOULD BE SENT ASAP OR AT LATEST BY COB WASHINGTON TIME SEPT. 5.

2. EMBOFF RECEIVED TELPHONE CALL SEPT 4 FROM DARCY MCGUARR, SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO DEFMIN LANCE BARNARD. MCGUARR STATED HE IS PROPOSING THAT MINISTER BARNARD INCLUDE REFERENCE TO GOA DESIRE TO CONTINUE JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES WITH U.S. FORCES AS PART OF BARNARD'S INTRODUCTION OF AMBASSADOR GREEN AT MEETING OF AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION IN BRISBANE SEPT. 6. MCGUARR INDICATED HE WAS ASKING ADMIRAL SIR VICTOR SMITH'S OFFICE TO PREPARE THE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE. MCGUARR SAID IN SUBSTANCE WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WAS A GENERAL STATEMENT THAT AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES CAN EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT EXERCISES WITH U.S. FORCES AND HE WOULD LIKE ALSO TO SAY THAT SUCH AN EXERCISE HAS BEEN PLANNED WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ELEMENTS OF ALL THREE AUSTRALIAN SERVICES, U.S. FORCES AND A CONTINGENT FROM NEW ZEALAND IN QUEENSLAND "SOMETIME DURING CALENDAR 1974". SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE NAME KANGAROO I WOULD NOT BE MADE ALTHOUGH THIS IS THE EXERCISE MCGUARR HAS IN MIND.

3. MCGUARR STATED HE WAS MAKING HIS APPROACH TO EMBOFF ON THIS MATTER ON A PERSONAL AND VERY INFORMAL BASIS. HE INDICATED IT WOULD BE VERY EMBARRASSING FOR HIM IF WORD THAT SUCH AN APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE TO THE EMBASSY SHOULD EVER GET BACK TO ADOD IN CANBERRA. EMBOFF PROMISED TO KEEP MATTER CONFIDENTIAL AND BE SURE THAT APPROACH BY MCGUARR WOULD BE HANDLED DISCREETLY BY USG.

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4. MCGUARR'S PURPOSE IN PROPOSING INCLUSION OF STATEMENT ABOUT JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE AS NOTED ABOVE WOULD BE IN HIS WORDS, "TO ALLAY PUBLIC AND AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CONCERN THAT THE ALP GOVERNMENT WAS SOMEHOW UNDERCUTTING THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE U.S." AT THE SAME TIME OF COURSE THIS STATEMENT WOULD BE A PUBLIC REAFFIRMATION OF AUSTRALIAN

GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED WILLINGNESS AND DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT EXERCISES WITH U.S. SEE REF D FOR DEFMIN BARNARD'S THOUGHTS ON MILITARY EXERCISES AS GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR GREEN IN CONVERSATION ON AUGUST 30.

5. LATEST EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES EMBASSY HAS SEEN REGARDING KANGAROO I ARE REFS A AND B, IN WHICH ADOD INDICATED ITS PREFERENCE FOR HOLDING THIS EXERCISE IN MAY/JUNE 1974 TIMEFRAME. WE ASSUME KANGAROO I IS A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISE AND WILL REQUIRE HIGH-LEVEL USG APPROVAL. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT DESCRIPTIVE REFERENCE TO KANGAROO I BY DEFMIN BARNARD WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG. MCGUARR'S CONCERN IN RAISING MATTER WAS THAT USG MIGHT NOT WANT TO BE BOUND BY REFERENCE TO THIS EXERCISE SO FAR IN ADVANCE OF ITS SCHEDULED OCCURRENCE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE ASAP OR AT LATEST BY COB WASHTIME SEPT 5.
GREEN

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NNN

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